

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-10 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-09 NSAE-00 OPIC-06

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-02 /081 W

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R 261820Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 5613

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 05040

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR METCALF; CEA AND TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OECD

SUBJECT: WORKING PARTY ON EMPLOYMENT SECURITY,
FEB. 18-20

REF: SME/ES(75)2

1. SUMMARY. WP ON EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MET FEB. 18-20 TO REVIEW UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND RANGE OF POLICIES/PROGRAMS TO COPE WITH SHORT AND LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS. UP DRAFTED INTERIM REPORT WHICH INCORPORATED, INTER-ALIA, USDEL'S PRIORITY CONCERN WITH INTER-AGENCY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY COORDINATION. SUBJECT OF LABOR MINISTERIAL NOT DISCUSSED FORMALLY AND MOST DELS SHOWED LITTLE INTEREST WHEN SUBJECT WAS RAISED. USDEL CONSISTED OF LLOYD FELDMAN AND DANIEL HAMERMESH OF LABOR DEPARTMENT, MARTIN C. FORRESTER AND SERGE R. FOY, USOECD. END SUMMARY.

2. AGENDA ITEMS 1 AND 2 - ELECTIONS AND AGENDA

MR. T. SECRETARY, IRISH LABOR DEPT, WAS ELECTED WP CHAIRMAN. AGENDA ADOPTED.
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3. AGENDA ITEM 3 - SECRETARIAT INTRODUCTION

SECRETARIAT NOTED THAT SHORT-RUN MEASURES TO COPE WITH UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION MUST RELATE TO LONGER-TERM STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROCESS, AND THAT POLICIES TO PROVIDE GREATER EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MUST BE COORDINATED BETWEEN APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES. (SEE PARA 5 B BELOW). ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT IN 1975, GNP IN OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL DECLINE FOR SECOND SUCCESSIVE YEAR, BUT UNEMPLOYMENT WILL PEAK IN LATTER PART OF YEAR.

4. AGENDA ITEMS 4 AND 5 - REVIEW OF COUNTRY REPLIES AND POLICIES

ALL DELS EXCEPT SWISS, SWEDISH, FINNISH AND NORWEGIANS DISCUSSED SERIOUSNESS OF UNCHARACTERISTICALLY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT WITHIN THEIR COUNTRIES. LABOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES (PORTUGAL, TURKEY, ITALY, SPAIN, GREECE) EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EMPLOYMENT POLICIES OF MAJOR LABOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES (GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE) CONSIDER THEIR IMPACT ON MIGRANT WORKERS. GERMAN DEL STATED WHILE HIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT "RE-EXPORT" FOREIGN WORKERS, EVENTUALLY THEY WILL HAVE TO RETURN. MUCH THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON RELATIVE MERITS OF VARIOUS POLICY/PROGRAM OPTIONS FOR UNEMPLOYED: FISCAL, MONETARY, MANPOWER, TRAINING, REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, REDUCED WORK WEEK, PUBLIC SERVICE, PUBLIC WORKS, ETC. GENERAL CONSENSUS EMERGED RE UTILITY OF ANY ONE OR MIX OF VARIOUS MEASURES. SEVERAL DELS WERE CAUTIOUS, HOWEVER, RE EFFICACY OF MAJOR INCREASES IN PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS AND CONSTRUCTION AS EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MEASURES.

5. AGENDA ITEM 6 - INTERIM REPORT

A) WP DRAFTED INTERIM REPORT AND PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO APRIL MSAC MEETING. FINAL REPORT IS DUE IN MAY FOR CONSIDERATION BY SECOND WP MEETING. AS POLICIES TO CHECK UNEMPLOYMENT AND EVEN-UNCLASSIFIED

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TUALLY INCREASE NUMBER OF JOBS, DRAFT REPORT RECOMMENDED "STRETCHING WORK" TO SHARE UNEMPLOYMENT BURDEN MORE EQUITABLY, JOB CREATION, TRAINING, INCOME SUPPORT AND A CAREFUL REVIEW OF MIGRATION POLICIES.

B) POLICY COORDINATION

AT USDEL REQUEST AND CONCURRENCE BY OTHER DELEGA-

TIONS, PARA 10 OF DRAFT "PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS" UNDER-
LINED NEED FOR INTER-AGENCY POLICY COORDINATION. DRAFT

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LANGUAGE READS: "THE INTERDEPENDENCY OF FISCAL AND
MONETARY POLICY ON THE MORE AGGREGATIVE LEVEL, AND
EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER POLICY ON THE MORE SELECTIVE LE-
VEL IN MEETING THE GOALS OF EMPLOYMENT AND PRICE STABI-
LIZATION ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. THIS UNDERLINES
THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING POLICY COORDINATION ARRANGE-
MENTS WHICH ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE HARMONY OF MACRO POLICY
AND EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER POLICY IN A CONTEXT IN
WHICH RISING UNEMPLOYMENT HAS BOTH STRUCTURAL AND CON-
JUNCTURAL COMPONENTS WHICH ARE AMENABLE TO DIFFERING
POLICY INSTRUMENTS. MANPOWER AUTHORITIES IN GOVERN-
MENTS HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN ENSURING AN EFFECTIVE
HARMONIZATION OF POLICY AND IN PARTICULAR IN EVALUATING
THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SCALE AND MIX OF MANPOWER AND
EMPLOYMENT POLICIES ARE RELATED TO THE DEGREE OF MANPOWER
UNDERUTILIZATION."

6. LABOR MINISTERIAL

SUBJECT OF MSAC MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL WAS NOT

DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION BUT RAISED INFORMALLY
DURING MEETING OF SECRETARIAT AND KEY DELS (US, CANADA,
GERMANY, BELGIUM, SWEDEN, NETHERLANDS AND IRELAND).
GASS TOLD GROUP THAT SEC GEN VAN LENNEP DOES NOT CONSIDER
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A MEETING NECESSARY SINCE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING AT
MINISTERIAL LEVEL WILL ALSO ADDRESS UNEMPLOYMENT. GASS
NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT A LABOR MINISTERIAL WOULD BE
ACCEPTABLE NEXT YEAR. IRELAND STRONGLY FAVORED MINIS-
TERIAL: US AND OTHER DELEGATIONS WERE NON-COMMITTAL.
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